

R E M A R K S

The Office Action of March 28, 2001 presents the examination of claims 52-73 and 76-79. No new matter is inserted into the application.

Interview

Applicants note that a personal interview has been arranged with the Examiner and Supervisory Examiner on November 15, 2001 at 3 PM (EST) at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Specification

The Examiner objects to the specification because the brief description of the figures does not refer to the plasmids by SEQ ID NO. Applicants respectfully disagree because the plasmids are not sequences and thusly do not require SEQ ID Nos. The instant objection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 57, 63, 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the instant rejection are requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in full compliance

with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for reasons of record, and reserve the right to address any outstanding issues during the scheduled interview.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects claims 69-71 and 76-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly not being described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the instant rejection are respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for reasons of record, and reserve the right to address any outstanding issues during the scheduled interview.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 52-68, 72-73, and 76-77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Franz, Arnold, Knowleton, Shubeita, Navankasattusas, Thornburn, Goswami, and Ricigliano, in view of Zaia and Posakoff. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the instant rejection are respectfully requested.


Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not obvious over the cited prior art references for reasons of record; and reserve the right to address any outstanding issues during the scheduled interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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